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**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

I N

**DUDLEY.**



THE HISTORY OF THE

DEEDS

AND THE

**HISTORICAL NOTICE**

OF THE

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

IN

**DUDLEY,** *Mass.*

WITH THE

**ARTICLES OF FAITH, COVENANT, &c.**

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## HISTORICAL NOTICE.

The precise time, when the Congregational church, in Dudley, was organized, cannot now be ascertained; as there are, extant, no records of the church, during the ministry of the first pastor. It is probable, however, that it was organized, sometime during the year 1732; the year, in which the town was incorporated. For, as appears, from the town records, the inhabitants immediately took measures to procure a religious teacher, and maintain public worship; and in a vote of the town, the following year, on this subject, reference is made to an action of the church, as then existing. The first person, who received a call to settle in the ministry, in the township of Dudley, was Mr. Isaac Richardson. And, though an Ecclesiastical Council was called for the purpose; yet for some reason, not now known, the proposed ordination never took place.

### P A S T O R S .

- Rev. PEARLY HOWE, Ordained June 12, 1735. Dismissed, 1743. Mr. Howe was from Killingly, (Con.) Graduated at H. U. 1731.
- Rev. CHARLES GLEASON, Ordained, Oct. 1744. Died, May, 1790. From Brookline, (Mass.) Graduated at H. U. 1738.
- Rev. JOSHUA JOHNSON, Installed, Dec. 1790. Dismissed, May, 1796. From Woodstock, (Con.) Graduated at Y. C. 1775.
- Rev. ABIEL WILLIAMS, Ordained June 12, 1799. Dismissed, March 16, 1831. From Raynham, (Mass.) Graduated at B. U. 1795.

- Rev. JAMES H. FRANCIS, Ordained Aug. 24, 1831.  
Dismissed June 26, 1837. From Weathersfield,  
(Con.) Graduated at Y. C. 1826.
- Rev. WALTER FOLLET, Installed Nov. 2, 1837. Dis-  
missed Sept. 28, 1841. From Williston, (Vt.) Grad-  
uated at M. C. 1825, and first settled in Southboro'.
- Rev. JOSHUA BATES, D. D. Installed March 22, 1843.  
From Cohasset, (Mass.) Graduated at H. U. 1800.  
First settled at Dedham, March 16, 1803. Inaugu-  
rated Pres. of M. C. March 18, 1818.

### D E A C O N S .

|                          |        |   |           |
|--------------------------|--------|---|-----------|
| Joseph Edmunds, elected, | —      |   | deceased. |
| Benjamin Conant,         | “ —    |   | “         |
| Jonathan Newell,         | “ 1745 |   | “         |
| Jacob Bradbury,          | “ 1763 |   | “         |
| Abijah Newell,           | “ 1770 |   | “         |
| Edward Davis,            | “ 1770 | — | “         |
| Jason Phipps,            | “ 1773 |   | “         |
| Jonathan Bacon,          | “ 1795 |   | “         |
| William Healy,           | “ 1812 |   | Resigned. |
| Simson Larned,           | “ 1820 |   | “         |
| Charles Carpenter,       | “ 1833 |   | “         |
| Abner Perry,             | “ 1833 |   |           |
| Ephraim Upham, Jr.       | “ 1844 |   |           |
| Hiram Newell,            | “ 1844 |   |           |

The number of members at the time of the organization of the Church, and the number admitted to Communion, and to Baptism, during the ministry of the first pastor, (for the reason named before,) cannot be now ascertained. But the following statement with reference to admissions both to Communion and Baptism, during the ministry of each



succeeding pastor, including the several intervening periods, is probably correct.

|                              |      |             |             |
|------------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|
| Mr. Gleason admitted to Com. | 145, | To Baptism, | 857.        |
| Mr. Johnson                  | “    | “           | 48, “ 79.   |
| Mr. Williams                 | “    | “           | 190, “ 219. |
| Mr. Francis                  | “    | “           | 74, “ 26.   |
| Mr. Follet                   | “    | “           | 29, “ 15.   |

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## CONFESSION OF FAITH.

(REVISED AND ADOPTED, 1843.)

You, A—— B——, and C—— D——, being about to enter publicly into Covenant with God and this Church, do now, in the presence of this assembly, solemnly declare your faith in Him and in the truth of his Word : *Particularly,*

1. You profess to believe, that there is one only, living and true God ; the Creator and Governor of the world ;— a Being, self-existent, independent, eternal and unchangeable ; possessing almighty power and unlimited knowledge ; infinitely wise and holy, just and good.

2. You believe, that this wise Creator and righteous and benevolent Governor of the Universe has given to man a revelation of his will ; contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments ;—that these Scriptures, commonly called the *Bible*, were all given by the inspiration of God ; and written by holy men, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost ; so that they are truly the Word of God, fur-

nishing a safe and perfect rule of faith and practice for man,—teaching us all that we need to know, in order to become wise unto salvation ; and all that we must do, to be saved.

3. While the sacred Scriptures confirm the doctrine of the unity of God ; they, nevertheless teach us, as you believe, that he exists in a mysterious and threefold manner ; and, as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, has revealed himself, under the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ; and that we are required to acknowledge our dependence on him, in these several relations ; according to the prescribed form of baptism ; and the apostolic benediction, pronounced on believers.

4. You believe, that God created man and angels—all beings and all things, for his own glory, and the manifestation of his glorious character and attributes—especially of his power, wisdom, goodness, justice, mercy and truth ; and that he governs the world, according to the wise and benevolent counsels of his own will ; doing his pleasure in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, causing all things to work together for good to them that love him, who are the called according to his purpose.

5. Concerning the human race, you believe, that God created our first parents holy and happy, in his own moral image ; that they, however, did not continue in this state of holiness, but fell into a state of sin and misery—by transgression defaced the image of God originally impressed on their hearts, lost communion with him, became rebels against his authority, and consequently subject to death, temporal, spiritual and eternal. And, since that, which is born of the flesh is flesh, you believe, that all their descendants, in their natural state, are morally depraved—entirely destitute of holiness, and prone to evil ;—that, in order to become reconciled to God and finally be made happy with him, in heaven, they must, therefore, be born again—born

of the Spirit—renewed in the spirit of their minds—created anew, after God, in righteousness and true holiness.

6. For this reconciliation of fallen men to God—for their pardon, sanctification and eternal salvation, you believe, that ample provision is made in the glorious plan of redemption, as revealed to us in the gospel, through the everlasting mercy of the Father, the merits and mediation of the Son, and the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit.

7. Concerning the Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ, you believe, that he united in himself the human and divine natures—that he was truly the Son of God and the son of man—Emmanuel—God manifest in the flesh—in whom dwelt all the fulness of the godhead bodily ;—that in consequence of this union of the divine and human natures in him, he became a fit Mediator, and the only qualified Mediator, between God and man—an all-sufficient Savior—able to save, even to the uttermost, all that come unto God by him ;—that for this purpose, he became obedient unto death—bare our sins in his own body on the cross—died, the just for the unjust ; so that God can now be just, and the justifier of all that believe in Jesus.

8. But, while you consider the atonement and mediation of Christ ample and sufficient for the salvation of all mankind ; you believe, that it actually becomes effectual to salvation only to those, who believe on him, and exercise repentance toward God, under the renewing and sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit.

9. Concerning the Holy Spirit, you believe, that he proceedeth from the Father and the Son ; and is therefore, truly divine ; possessing and manifesting all the divine attributes ;—that his office, in the plan of man's redemption, is to convince of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment—to lead the convinced sinner to Christ, and through faith to apply to him the atonement—to encourage him to repent, help him under his infirmities, and to sanctify his soul—to

seal him unto the day of redemption, to comfort him in hope, and to give him an earnest of an eternal inheritance in heaven.

10. You believe, such is the wickedness and depravity of the human heart, that no one would accept the offered salvation, and become reconciled to God through Christ, without the aid of the Holy Spirit; but that all, who yield to the blessed influences of this Spirit, and become willing to forsake their sins, and turn unto the service of God—to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and obey the gospel, may be sure of obtaining the grace which they need.

11. Hence you believe, that all, who are saved, are saved by grace, and justified through faith; being chosen of God to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

12. You believe, that to them, who are thus in Christ Jesus, and who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, there is no condemnation; because feeling their dependence, and asking for divine assistance; they have the promise of the Holy Spirit, to guide them into all truth, and strengthen them for every duty; and they may therefore go on their way rejoicing, being kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation.

13. You believe, that the special ordinances of the gospel are two—Baptism and the Lord's Supper; and that all believers are required to observe them, according to the direction and example of Christ and his apostles.

14. You believe, that it is the duty of christians; and especially of those, who are members of the same church—under the bonds of the same covenant, to watch over one another in love; to assemble together for public worship, especially on the Lord's day—and thus mutually to help each other forward unto the kingdom of heaven, as well as to strive together to promote the cause of the Redeemer and the salvation of the world.

15. Finally, you believe, that there will be a resurrection of the dead—both of the just and of the unjust; a general judgment of all mankind, when every one shall receive sentence, according to his character—that a final separation of the righteous from the wicked will then take place; and that the blessedness of the former and the misery of the latter will alike be eternal and without end.

*These acknowledgments and professions you, and each of you, here publicly and solemnly make!*

*(N. B. here baptisms and prayer, if required.)*

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## COVENANT.

You do now publicly and solemnly dedicate yourselves to the service of the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; entering into an everlasting Covenant with Him; and promising, by his grace assisting you, to walk in all the ordinances and statutes of the Lord blameless.

Relying on the merits and mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ, for pardon and justification, you engage, to study his word, obey his precepts and follow his example.

Acknowledging the Holy Spirit, as your Sanctifier, you here declare your purpose, to yield to his holy influences, follow his heavenly guidance, and seek his efficient aid, to enlighten, sanctify, comfort, and save you and yours, and all for whom Christ died; and for whom you are taught, in the Scriptures, to pray.

Viewing this as a regularly constituted church of Christ—built upon the foundation of the prophets and apostles, Je-

sus Christ himself being the chief corner stone, you do now cordially join yourselves to it; desiring to become living members of it, and engaging to seek its peace, edification, purity, and spiritual prosperity;—promising to give and receive counsel and reproof, with meekness and fidelity, and to submit to the discipline, authorised and enjoined in the gospel;—covenanting to walk in love and fellowship with its members; and with them to attend on the public worship of God, and the ordinances of his house; while he, in his providence, shall give you the opportunity, and allow you the blessed privilege.

*Do you thus covenant and promise?*

We then, the members of this church,\* in view of the professions and promises, which you have now made, and the evidence which you have given of your sincerity and devotion to the service of God, affectionately receive you to our fellowship and communion; and, in the name of Christ, we declare you to be members of his visible church; entitled to all its privileges, and under all the obligations, which this sacred relation imposes. We bid you welcome to a participation of these blessings of the gospel, with us; and, in our turn we promise to watch over you, with christian affection; and to conduct towards you, in all respects, as becomes the disciples of Christ, and members of the household of faith.

“And now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead, the Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant make you perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in you that, which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever: *Amen.*”

*\*Here the whole church should rise.*

B Y - L A W S ,  
OR RULES OF ADMISSION AND DISMISSION.

1. With a view to the examination of Candidates for admission to the church, a Committee of five, including the pastor and deacons, shall be annually appointed, and may serve, till others are appointed in their place. At their meetings for examining candidates, however, any other members of the church, who choose, may attend, and take part in this labor of love.

2. When any persons wish to become members of the church, they may apply to the pastor, or, in his absence, to one of the deacons, who will cause a meeting of the Examining Committee to be called, for the special purpose of conversation with these applicants.

3. In all cases, in which the Committee are satisfied with the qualifications of the applicants, they shall be publicly propounded, for the information and consideration of the members of the church, at least, two weeks before the time of the proposed admission ; and, at the close of service on the day of the preparatory lecture, or at some other regular church meeting, the case of such propounded Candidates shall be reported to the church ; and action shall be taken on the question of their admission.

4. If the church are satisfied with the report of the Examining Committee, or by personal conversation with the persons propounded, and vote to receive them ; they may be publicly received, before the communion service, on the next Lord's day, or at any other suitable time. And in admitting members hereafter, the preceding Articles of Faith and form of Covenant shall be used.

5. Any person, who is already a member of some other church, in fellowship with this, on presenting to the Com-

mittee of the church a Certificate of dismissal and recommendation, may be propounded, as above provided; and, if no valid objection is made, may be admitted by vote of the church, and the name entered in the church records, as a member, without any further formal profession.

6. All persons, members of other churches, in fellowship with this, who attend public worship with this church, shall be invited to the privileges of occasional communion, for the space of one year from the time of removal into the vicinity; or, till they have opportunity to remove their relation, according to Congregational Usage.

7. Members of this church, removing from the place, and thus finding it convenient to attend public worship elsewhere, may, if in good standing, have letters of dismissal and recommendation to any other church, in fellowship with this; and members thus removing are expected to call for their letters of dismissal, within a year after their removal.



## Names of the Resident Members of the Church, living at the time of printing this, Dec. 1844.

| <i>Time of Admission.</i> | <i>Names.</i>        | <i>Remarks.</i> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1791, Sept. 18,           | Lydia Curtis,        | w.*             |
| Nov. 27,                  | Mary Perry,          | w.              |
| 1799, June 12,            | Rev. Abiel Williams, |                 |
| 1800, Sept. 14,           | William Healy,       | <i>Deacon.</i>  |
| 1801, Nov. 2,             | Asenath Jordan,      | m.              |
| 1806, July 7,             | Ephraim Upham,       |                 |
| 1810, Dec. 30,            | Reuben Taft,         |                 |
| 1814, June 5,             | Simpson Larned,      | <i>Deacon.</i>  |
|                           | Samuel P. Knight,    |                 |
|                           | Harriet Knight,      | m.              |
|                           | Paul Dodge,          |                 |
|                           | Rhoda Dodge,         | m.              |
|                           | Phinehas Bemis,      |                 |
|                           | Mary Bemis,          | m.              |
| Aug. 7,                   | Mary Barker,         | s.              |
| 1815, June 4,             | Polly Davis,         | m.              |
| Aug. 6,                   | Sophia Bacon,        | m.              |
|                           | Betsey S. Bacon,     | s.              |
| 1816, April 4,            | George Bacon,        |                 |
|                           | Esther Bacon,        | m.              |
| Aug. 4,                   | Juda Corbin,         | m.              |
| Oct. 13,                  | Rosanna T. Pope,     | m.              |
| 1819, March 28,           | Sarah Williams,      | m.              |
|                           | Abiel Elwell,        |                 |
|                           | Rachel Elwell,       | m.              |
|                           | Becca Healy,         | w.              |
|                           | Prudence Taft,       | m.              |

\* M. denotes Married,—S. Single,—W. Widow.

|                 |                       |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1819, March 27, | Harriet Davis,        | <i>w. now Phipps.</i> |
|                 | Dorcas Corbin,        | <i>s.</i>             |
|                 | Luther Corbin,        |                       |
| June 6,         | Chester Curtis,       |                       |
|                 | Lucinda Curtis,       | <i>m.</i>             |
|                 | Sally Marey,          | <i>w.</i>             |
|                 | Albigece W. Williams, |                       |
|                 | Becca D. Williams,    | <i>m.</i>             |
| Dec. 5,         | Huldah Davis,         | <i>m.</i>             |
| 1820, Dec. 3,   | Nathan Johnson,       |                       |
|                 | Ruhamah Johnson,      | <i>m.</i>             |
| 1822, April 7,  | Susan Bemis,          | <i>s.</i>             |
| 1828, March 2,  | Davis Larned,         |                       |
|                 | Mary Larned,          | <i>m.</i>             |
|                 | Betsey Davis,         | <i>m.</i>             |
|                 | Walter Upham,         |                       |
|                 | Ephraim Upham, Jr.    | <i>Deacon.</i>        |
|                 | Davis Larned, Jr.     |                       |
|                 | Phebe H. Elwell,      | <i>m. now Upham.</i>  |
|                 | Abner Perry,          | <i>Deacon.</i>        |
|                 | Polly Perry,          | <i>m.</i>             |
|                 | Mary Perry,           | <i>m.</i>             |
|                 | Sally Davis,          | <i>m.</i>             |
| 1828, May 4,    | Polly Healy,          | <i>w.</i>             |
|                 | Davis Healy,          |                       |
| July,           | Zeruiah Williams,     | <i>m. now Healy.</i>  |
|                 | Elizabeth Larned,     | <i>m. now Davis.</i>  |
|                 | Sally Dodge,          | <i>m.</i>             |
| 1831, Nov. 6,   | Henry Haskeli,        |                       |
|                 | Reuben Davis          |                       |
|                 | Nancy Eddy,           | <i>m.</i>             |
|                 | Hannah Robinson,      | <i>w.</i>             |
| 1832, March 4,  | John A. Larned,       |                       |
|                 | Faithful Lee,         | <i>s.</i>             |
|                 | Mary R. Pope,         | <i>s.</i>             |

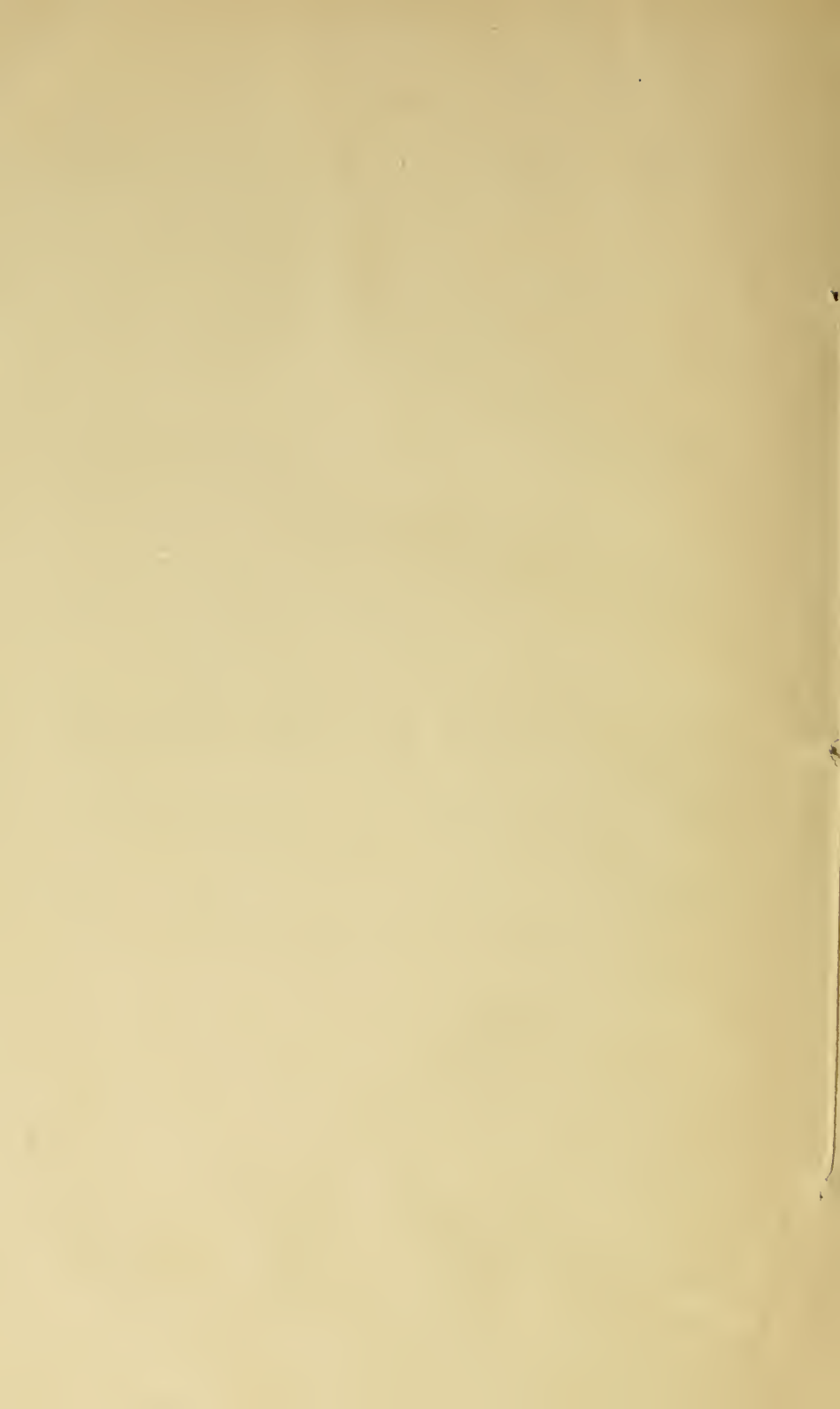
- 1832,  
 March 4, Mary S. Larned, *m. now Upham.*  
 May 6, Lemuel Healy,  
       Louisa Brown, *m. now Kingsbury.*  
       Lydia Healy, *s.*  
 July 1, Elvira W. Healy, *m. by letter from N. Haven.*  
 Sept. 2, Zinecya Hancock, *m.*  
 1833,  
 May 5, Sally Curtis, *m. now Delany.*  
 1836,  
 Jan. 1, Almira Moulton, *m. by let. from Framingham*  
 March 6, William Upham,  
       Sylvia Corbin, *s.*  
 April 20, Esther C. Jewett, *m. by letter from Thompson.*  
 May 1, Sophia Gore, *s.*  
       Sylvia Gore, *s.*  
       Louisa Eddy, *s.*  
 Sept. 11, Diana Jacobs, *m. by let. from Thompson.*  
       Betsey Bacon, *m. by let. from Woodstock.*  
 1838, Electa Upham, *m. by let. from Woodstock.*  
 Jan. 5, Hiram Newell, *Deacon*, by letter from Townsend.  
       Rebecca Newell, *m. by let. from Townsend.*  
 March 4, Loriania Upham, *w. by letter from Oxford.*  
       Austin Upham,  
       David Perry,  
       William Perry  
       Diana L. Wilson, *s.*  
       Sarah Perry, *s.*  
 May 4, Samuel H Davis, *by let. from N. Haven.*  
 July 8, Melissa Curtis, *s.*  
       Charles H. Perry,  
 1839, Mary N. Perry, *s.*  
 Jan. 4, Charlotte Webster, *m. by let. from Southbridge.*  
 Sept. 1, Abigail Stone, *m. by let. from Thompson.*















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